

Private

Adelaide, South Austr.

My dear Watson

Dec. 20 1890

This is to carry Christmas greetings to you from the Antipodes, as they often call it here. Everything is reversed as you well know, and we are still bewildered.

Our stay in Egypt was short, but we had a glimpse of Palms with dates, and of fozes with no end of dirt. But when we reached Ceylon, Paradise was reached. I cannot find words to express my delight with the vegetation exhibited in the gardens at Pesadeniya and Hakgala. I have numerous photographs of the places, about 160 large ones, and they will show you everything of most interest. The rice-fields, Cocoa-estates tea-plantations, cinchona-forests and coffee-fields exceeded in number and variety what I had expected to see. The tropical fruits were in perfection, except the Durian which had gone by, about a week. But I saw the smell.

Lantana is the dominant weed except in the gardens, where Mimosa pudica is a perfect nuisance. Lantana is being crowded out by a

Mexican Composites of large size.

Our voyage hitherto was delightful as, in fact, all our seas have been. But my Miasme here is diminished by the serious, perhaps last, illness of Dr Schemburgk. He is very low. The Gardens are magnificent and the Museum is one which I covet. It is not my neighbor's house, it is of the contents.

Just now we are in the hills, around us are innumerable Acacias, Eucalypts, and Casuarinas, all of them, as I tell the people here, insect-proof and fungi-proof. The adaptations are marvellous and ^{the results of} my studies are confirmed by Mr. Tepper a local botanist of great experience here. We hope to go to Victoria next week, thence to Tasmania, New Zealand S. + N., & thence to Sydney, after which up the East Coast of Australia to Java.

We keep good health all the time & enjoy every moment. Please remember me to all at your house & all inquiring friends.

My regards to Robt. S. Sany. Foulon Sargent (for whom I have a host of notes) & Cameron. My kindest wishes to Mrs. May & yourself. With all Christmas Complutations.
Yours ever faithfully G.H.